

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claim 16 to recite “wherein said protein contains at least one glutamate residue on which said transglutaminase does not act and at least one glutamate residue on which said transglutaminase does act.” Support for amended Claim 16 can be found in, e.g., in Example 3, in particular at page 19, lines 11-12, where it is stated “This clearly indicates that only the glutamine residue on which the transglutaminase acts is labeled with N¹⁵.”

Applicants have also added new Claims 23 and 24. Support for new Claim 23 can be found, e.g., on page 10, lines 21-24, of the specification. Support for new Claim 24 can be found, e.g., in Example 3, in particular, at page 19, line 20, to page 20, line 2, of the specification.

No new matter has been added. Claims 3-9 and 12-24 are active in this application.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Weber for indicating that Claims 3-9 are allowed. Applicants submit that, in view of the present amendments, all of the pending claims are now allowable.

The rejection of Claims 10, 11 and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Boyd et al (1997) has been, in part, obviated by appropriate amendment and is, in part, respectfully traversed. As the Examiner will note, Applicants have canceled Claims 10 and 11. As for Claims 16-22, Applicants note the following.

As noted by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action, the labeled proteins in Boyd et al are produced by using recombinant techniques. This means that all the glutamine (“Gln”) residues in the protein are labeled with ¹⁵N or the position of labeling could not be controlled. This fact is discussed on page 3 lines 3-19, of the present specification.

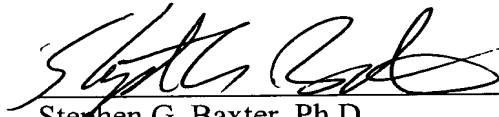
In sharp contrast, according to the present Claim 16, only the glutamate residues on which the transglutaminase acts can be labeled with ^{15}N and the glutamate residues on which the transglutaminase does not act can not be labeled with ^{15}N . The glutamate residues which will be labeled with ^{15}N can be consistently defined as the residues on which transglutaminase can act depending on the individual protein. This is clearly described in Example 3 (see, *e.g.*, the statement: "This clearly indicates that only the glutamine residue on which the transglutaminase acts is labeled with N^{15} ." appearing on page 19, lines 11-12).

For these reasons, amended Claim 16, as well as the claims dependent thereon, are not anticipated by Boyd et al (1997). Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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